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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A liquid crystal display device, comprising:  
a reflecting layer for reflecting incident light;  
a liquid crystal layer provided on said  
reflecting layer; and

an optical compensation plate provided on a front  
surface of said liquid crystal layer,

wherein said optical compensation plate has a  
layer structure constituted of a first retardation  
plate, a second retardation plate, and a polarizing  
plate from a side close to said liquid crystal layer,  
and

wherein said first and second retardation plates  
have uniaxial anisotropies respectively, and both are  
superposed to create, in a combined manner, a  
function of a quarter-wave plate and a function of a  
negative retardation plate.

2. The liquid crystal display device according  
to claim 1, wherein said optical compensation plate  
further includes a half-wave plate on said second  
retardation plate.

3. The liquid crystal display device according  
to claim 1,

wherein an angle formed between an absorption  
axis of said polarizing plate and an optical axis of  
said second retardation plate is about  $45^\circ$ ,

wherein a difference between an in-plane  
retardation of said second retardation plate and an

in-plane retardation of said first retardation plate is set to a quarter wavelength, and

wherein the optical axis of said second retardation plate and an optical axis of said first retardation plate are substantially orthogonal.

4. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 3, wherein a difference between a retardation of said first retardation plate in a direction vertical to plane thereof and a retardation of said liquid crystal layer is not less than 0 nm nor greater than 200 nm.

5. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 2,

wherein where an angle formed between an optical axis of said half-wave plate and an absorption axis of said polarizing plate is  $\theta$ , the optical axis of said half-wave plate and an optical axis of said second retardation plate is about  $\theta \pm 45^\circ$ ,

wherein a difference between an in-plane retardation of said second retardation plate and an in-plane retardation of said first retardation plate is set to a quarter wavelength, and

wherein the optical axis of said second retardation plate and an optical axis of said first retardation plate are substantially orthogonal.

6. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 5, wherein a difference between a sum of retardations of said first and second retardation

plates in a direction vertical planes thereof and a retardation of said liquid crystal layer is not less than 0 nm nor greater than 200 nm.

7. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 3, wherein the absorption axis of said polarizing plate forms an angle of not less than  $5^{\circ}$  nor greater than  $30^{\circ}$  with respect to alignment directions of liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer or to tilt directions of the liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer where voltage is applied.

8. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 3, wherein the in-plane retardation of said first retardation plate is a quarter wavelength.

9. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 8, wherein the in-plane retardation of said first retardation plate is not less than 100 nm nor greater than 180 nm, and the in-plane retardation of said second retardation plate is not less than 200 nm nor greater than 360 nm.

10. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein alignment of said liquid crystal layer is twisted nematic or vertical.

11. A liquid crystal display device, comprising:  
a reflecting layer for reflecting incident light;  
a liquid crystal layer provided on said reflecting layer, in which alignment of liquid crystal molecules is vertical; and

a retardation plate and a polarizing plate provided on a front surface of said liquid crystal layer,

wherein said reflecting layer has projections and depressions formed on a surface thereof, an average tilt angle of the projections and depressions being a value of not less than  $4^{\circ}$  nor greater than  $6^{\circ}$ , and

wherein said retardation plate has a negative refractive index anisotropy in a vertical direction to a surface thereof, a ratio between a retardation  $R_f$  thereof and a retardation  $R_{lc}$  of said liquid crystal layer,  $R_f/R_{lc}$ , being a value of not less than 0.6 nor greater than 0.9.

12. A liquid crystal display device, comprising:  
a reflecting layer for reflecting incident light;  
a liquid crystal layer provided on said reflecting layer, in which alignment of liquid crystal molecules is vertical; and

a retardation plate and a polarizing plate provided on a front surface of said liquid crystal layer,

wherein said reflecting layer has projections and depressions formed on a surface thereof, an average tilt angle of the projections and depressions being a value of not less than  $7^{\circ}$  nor greater than  $9^{\circ}$ , and

wherein said retardation plate has a negative refractive index anisotropy in a vertical direction to a surface thereof, a ratio between a retardation

Rf thereof and a retardation Rlc of said liquid crystal layer,  $R_f/R_{lc}$ , being a value of not less than 0.5 nor greater than 0.8.

13. A liquid crystal display device, comprising:  
a reflecting layer for reflecting incident light;  
a liquid crystal layer provided on said reflecting layer, in which alignment of liquid crystal molecules is vertical; and

a retardation plate and a polarizing plate provided on a front surface of said liquid crystal layer,

wherein said reflecting layer has projections and depressions formed on a surface thereof, an average tilt angle of the projections and depressions being a value of not less than  $10^\circ$  nor greater than  $15^\circ$ , and

wherein said retardation plate has a negative refractive index anisotropy in a vertical direction to a surface thereof, a ratio between a retardation  $R_f$  thereof and a retardation  $R_{lc}$  of said liquid crystal layer,  $R_f/R_{lc}$ , being a value of not less than 0.4 nor greater than 0.7.

14. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 11, wherein where refractive indexes in an x direction, a y direction, and a z direction of said retardation plate are  $n_x$ ,  $n_y$ , and  $n_z$  respectively, and a  $N_z$  coefficient is defined such that

$$N_z = (n_x - n_z) / (n_x - n_y),$$

the  $N_z$  coefficient of said retardation plate is 1 or less.

15. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 11, wherein said retardation plate is made by layering a plurality of uniaxially stretched films which are arranged in layers such that slow axes of the respective uniaxially stretched films are substantially orthogonal.

16. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 11, wherein the liquid crystal molecule of said liquid crystal layer has a negative dielectric constant anisotropy.

17. A liquid crystal display device, comprising:  
a reflecting layer with projections and depressions having azimuthal anisotropies on reflection intensity formed on a surface thereof, for reflecting incident light;

a liquid crystal layer provided on said reflecting layer, in which alignment of liquid crystal molecules is vertical; and

a retardation plate and a polarizing plate provided on a front surface of said liquid crystal layer,

wherein said retardation plate has a retardation of a quarter of a visible light wavelength in an in-plane direction thereof, and is arranged such that an angle formed between an azimuth  $\phi$  in which the reflection intensity is maximum and an absorption

axis P of said polarizing plate is a value of not less than  $65^{\circ}$  nor greater than  $90^{\circ}$ , and an angle formed between a slow axis  $F_1$  of said retardation plate and the absorption axis P is about  $45^{\circ}$ .

18. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 17,

wherein said retardation plate is configured having a first retardation plate having a retardation of a quarter of a visible light wavelength in an in-plane direction thereof and a second retardation plate having a retardation of a half of a visible light wavelength in an in-plane direction thereof,

wherein an angle formed between a slow axis  $F_{12}$  of said second retardation plate and the absorption axis P is not less than  $0^{\circ}$  nor greater than  $20^{\circ}$ , and

wherein an angle formed between a slow axis  $F_{11}$  of said first retardation plate and the slow axis  $F_{12}$  is not less than  $45^{\circ}$  nor greater than  $65^{\circ}$ .

19. A liquid crystal display device, comprising:  
a reflecting layer with projections and depressions having azimuthal anisotropies on reflection intensity formed on a surface thereof, for reflecting incident light;

a liquid crystal layer provided on said reflecting layer, and provided on said reflecting layer; and



a retardation plate and a polarizing plate provided on a front surface of said liquid crystal layer,

wherein said retardation plate has a retardation of a quarter of a visible light wavelength in an in-plane direction thereof, and is arranged such that an angle formed between an azimuth  $\phi$  in which the reflection intensity is maximum and an absorption axis P of said polarizing plate is a value of not less than  $90^\circ$  nor greater than  $115^\circ$ , and an angle formed between a slow axis  $F_1$  of said retardation plate and the absorption axis P is about  $135^\circ$ .

20. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 19,

wherein said retardation plate is configured having a first retardation plate having a retardation of a quarter of a visible light wavelength in an in-plane direction thereof and a second retardation plate having a retardation of a half of a visible light wavelength in an in-plane direction thereof,

wherein an angle formed between a slow axis  $F_{12}$  of said second retardation plate and the absorption axis P is not less than  $0^\circ$  nor greater than  $20^\circ$ , and

wherein an angle formed between a slow axis  $F_{11}$  of said first retardation plate and the slow axis  $F_{12}$  is not less than  $135^\circ$  nor greater than  $155^\circ$ .

21. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 17, further comprising:

another retardation plate having retardations in a vertical direction to a surface thereof and an in-plane direction thereof respectively,

wherein said other retardation plate is arranged on said liquid crystal layer side of said retardation plate such that an angle formed between an azimuth  $\phi$  in which the reflection intensity is maximum and a slow axis  $F_2$  of at least one of said retardation plate and said other retardation plate is not less than  $0^\circ$  nor greater than  $30^\circ$  .

22. A liquid crystal display device, comprising:  
a reflecting layer with projections and depressions having azimuthal anisotropies on reflection intensity formed on a surface thereof, for reflecting incident light; and

a liquid crystal layer provided on said reflecting layer,

wherein liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer are aligned such that an angle formed between an azimuth  $\phi$  in which the reflection intensity is maximum and a director azimuth  $L$  for the liquid crystal molecules is not less than  $45^\circ$  nor greater than  $90^\circ$  .

23. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 22, wherein the liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer are aligned such that the angle formed between the azimuth  $\phi$  in which the reflection intensity is maximum and the director

azimuth  $L$  for the liquid crystal molecules is not less than  $45^\circ$  nor greater than  $90^\circ$ , through use of the projections and depressions.

24. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 22,

wherein slit are formed on pixel electrodes, and wherein the liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer are aligned such that the angle formed between the azimuth  $\phi$  in which the reflection intensity is maximum and the director azimuth  $L$  for the liquid crystal molecules is not less than  $45^\circ$  nor greater than  $90^\circ$ , through use of the slits.

25. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 17, wherein the liquid crystal molecule of said liquid crystal layer has a negative refractive index anisotropy.

26. A liquid crystal display device, comprising:  
a reflecting layer with projections and depressions having azimuthal anisotropies on reflection intensity formed on a surface thereof, for reflecting incident light;

a liquid crystal layer provided on said reflecting layer, in which alignment of liquid crystal molecules is vertical; and

a quarter-wave plate, a half-wave plate, and a polarizing plate provided in order on a front surface of said liquid crystal layer,

wherein respective applicable wavelengths of said quarter-wave plate and said half-wave plate are made different so that retardations caused by said quarter-wave plate, said half-wave plate, and said liquid crystal layer due to an oblique incidence or oblique emission in an azimuth in which the reflection intensity is maximum are made smaller than the retardations in an azimuth in which the reflection intensity is minimum.

27. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 26, wherein the respective applicable wavelengths of said quarter-wave plate and said half-wave plate are made different by a value of not less than 20 nm nor greater than 200 nm.

28. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 26, wherein the applicable wavelength of said quarter-wave plate is made smaller than the applicable wavelength of said half-wave plate.

29. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 26, further comprising:

a negative retardation plate between said liquid crystal layer and said quarter-wave plate,

wherein the applicable wavelength of said quarter-wave plate is made larger than the applicable wavelength of said half-wave plate.

30. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 26, further comprising:

another half-wave plate between said half-wave plate and said polarizing plate,

wherein slow axes of said quarter-wave plate and said half-wave plate are substantially orthogonal, and the applicable wavelength of said half-wave plate is made larger than the applicable wavelength of said other half-wave plate.